

History and Culture of Los Gatos

Location

The Town of Los Gatos, California, is nestled at the base of the Sierra Azules, approximately 50 miles south of San Francisco, in the southwestern portion of Santa Clara County where the Santa Clara Valley meets the lower slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Los Gatos is bounded by the City of San Jose to the north and east, the City of Campbell to the north, the Cities of Monte Sereno and Saratoga to the west, and the unincorporated County of Santa Clara and the County of Santa Cruz to the south.

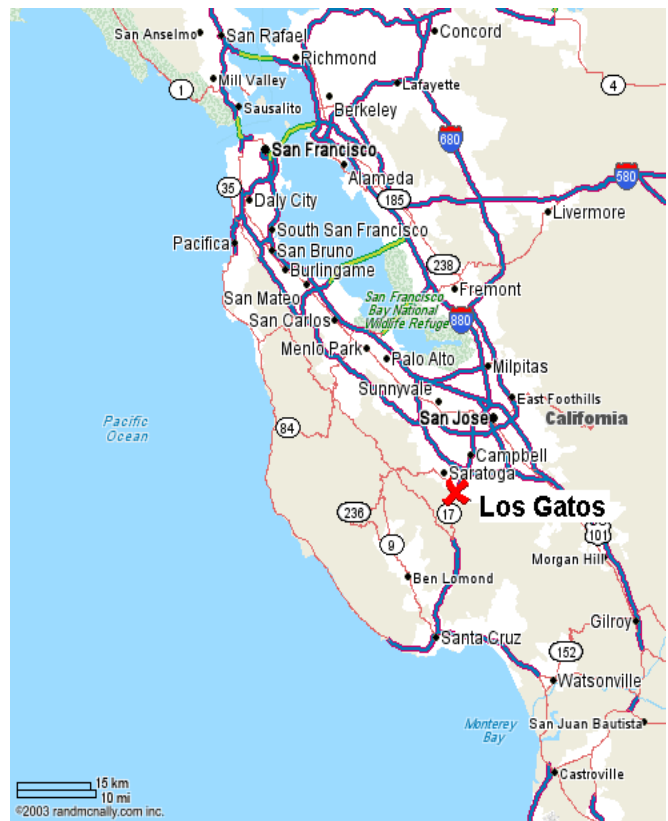
Los Gatos encompasses a wide variety of terrain, ranging from flat topography at the edge of the valley floor to densely wooded hillsides. Both the valley and hillsides are interspersed with creeks, streams, and riparian habitat. The sharp contrast between the valley floor and the hillsides provides the Town's picturesque background.

History

The name Los Gatos comes from "El Rancho de Los Gatos," a ranch established in 1839 by a Mexican land grant and so named because of the large number of mountain lions in the area. In 1854, James Alexander Forbes purchased some of this land and built a flour mill. In 1860, the first hotel was opened to provide a stage stop on the toll road which had been built between San Jose and Santa Cruz.

Wheat production gave way to orchards, and rapid growth ensued when the railroad reached Los Gatos in 1878. The residential subdivisions of Broadway, Bayview, Fairview, and Almond Grove were built in the 1880's. By 1887, the population had grown to 1,500 and Los Gatans voted to incorporate.

Fruit industries faded slowly during the Depression and World War II, but the postwar period brought an influx of people, producing residential and commercial development. Highway 17 was constructed through the center of town, opening in 1940. Growth levelled off in the early 1970's, leaving Los Gatos with its small-town atmosphere and pedestrian-oriented downtown.



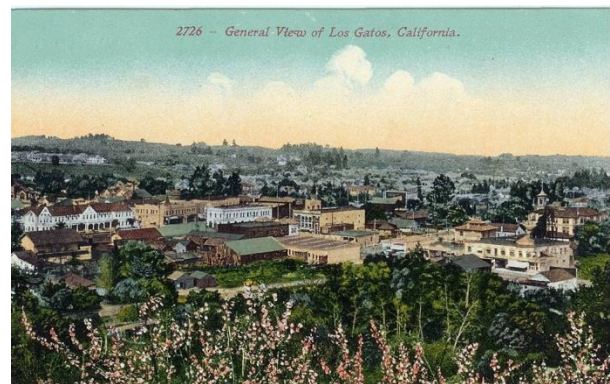
Because of its distance from other centers of population, Los Gatos developed as a complete community including residential, business, and industrial elements. Preserving Los Gatos as a complete and well-balanced community has been and remains a prominent goal of residents. From the first 100-acre town site in 1890 with a population of 1,652, Los Gatos grew slowly so that by 1963 the area was 6.3 square miles, with a population of 11,750. Today Los Gatos covers nearly 15 square miles and has a population of about 30,000. This relatively slow growth over the first 80 years resulted in a human scale community with narrow streets and small buildings.

As it exists now, Los Gatos' boundaries encompass a wide variety of terrain, ranging from level land to steep and densely wooded hillsides. The sharp visual contrasts among these features and charming architecture create the picturesque setting of the town. In the midst of an increasingly uniform urban complex, this setting has attracted people with a preference for the town's distinctive, high quality natural and urban environment.



residents take great care and pride in the preservation of its historic business district and residential architecture, and, as a result, Los Gatos is one of the most beautiful, well-maintained, and desirable communities in the Bay Area. The town's two museums, known as the Tait Avenue and Forbes Mill museums, also help to preserve the Town's valued history.

The slow growth of Los Gatos over an extended number of years has left the town with a heritage of older, established residential areas and a downtown with many historic buildings representing the various eras in the town's history. Both the Town's management and the Town's



Community

Situated within the largest metropolitan area of northern California, Los Gatos is closely tied to Silicon Valley and its fast-paced economy. Located at the southern edge of Silicon Valley, Los Gatos harbors more than 3,000 businesses with a full range of services for its residents, and serves as a destination point for visitors who are attracted to its restaurants, hotels, and the variety of high-end specialty shops within the pedestrian-oriented downtown setting. Downtown Los Gatos is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the model of what communities strive to achieve in a downtown.

Los Gatos has many parks and greenbelt areas, providing many recreational activities for its residents. It is also near the major cultural and professional athletic events in San Francisco and San Jose, tourist attractions in Santa Cruz, and ocean activities in the Monterey Bay. This picturesque and charming town is full of enterprising citizens, proud of who they are and protective of where they live. There is a high level of community pride as demonstrated by many community-based organizations which work to retain Los Gatos' exceptional living environment. Unlike many of the suburban communities in the Bay Area, Los Gatos has its own identity. Los Gatos prides itself on being a "self-contained community" even

though it borders a major metropolitan area. It is a close-knit and friendly community where people take time to get to know each other.

Climate

Los Gatos enjoys a mild Mediterranean climate, making it ideal for business, residential, and recreational opportunities. Summers are dry and warm in the 80 degrees to 100 degrees range. Winters are temperate and semi-moist in the 40 degrees to 60 degrees range. Los Gatos receives most of its precipitation from December through March. It is rare to see raindrops in the summer months.

Transportation

Los Gatos is part of a comprehensive transportation network that links the town to Silicon Valley cities, the Mineta International Airport in San Jose, and mass transportation rail-line facilities. The Valley Transportation Authority also has several bus lines servicing the Los Gatos community, with a free smaller connection bus to service the downtown area. Bus routes connect to the light rail system in various locations throughout the Silicon Valley, and the airport and train station in San Jose. The town is also accessible via Highway 17 and Highway 85.

San Francisco and Oakland are 53 and 50 miles north of Los Gatos respectively. The coastal city of Santa Cruz is 21 miles south over the Santa Cruz Mountains, and the busy tourist towns of Monterey and Carmel are approximately 60 and 65 miles south of Los Gatos.



Economy

Current trends in financial markets have impacted the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Innovation-based economies like Silicon Valley benefit from the rapid change of globalization, whereas regional productivity remains flat. The job base continues to diversify especially in the emerging area of clean technology and mobile software platforms, with the Valley claiming more than 50 percent of all “cleantech” venture funding in California. Silicon Valley’s unique mix of talent, technology, and capital often translate into a genuine comparative advantage. All of these factors are expected to enable the region to continue on a pattern of growth outperforming the nation.



For the first time since the recession hit, nationwide home sales and valuations are rising, particularly in the Silicon Valley markets. Los Gatos property values are also increasing, confirming that the Town continues to be an attractive location for homebuyers and sellers.

The FY 2013/14 budget reflects the local and regional expectations for the economy. Economically sensitive revenue, such as sales tax, property tax, franchise fees, business license taxes, transit oriented tax, and interest earnings are projected to experience limited growth; private development activity has been forecasted to increase moderately due to less speculative development and more client specific projects which have received more support from financial lending institutions.

On a positive note, vacancy rates for Los Gatos commercial districts, particularly office and R&D uses, is lower than the region. Retail and neighborhood commercial buildings are also maintaining relatively low vacancy rates.

Town of Los Gatos Vision

Los Gatos is home. It is the type of community people want to live in because they feel a sense of belonging. When residents drive south on Highway 17, cross over Route 85, and see the beautiful Town of Los Gatos nestled at the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains they know they are home. Los Gatos is an oasis of calm within one of the major economic engines in the world, Silicon Valley. People feel safe here. The Town provides excellent schools, beautiful parks, a wonderful downtown and diverse shopping, and an accessible and responsive government.

Preserving the small-town character of Los Gatos is a collection of related issues, including acceptable levels of development, historic preservation, density and intensity, population growth, downtown, congestion, open space, views of the hills, the nature of businesses located in town, protection of the various neighborhoods, and community design. Los Gatos is a truly special place and residents expect all new development to fit into the fabric of the community and demand that new businesses enhance their high quality of life.

As Los Gatos residents expect strong leadership from their elected officials to guide the community and to ensure that the high quality of life in Los Gatos is protected for future generations, the Town utilizes three important means for ensuring the continuity of values: (a) providing mechanisms for broad public participation in government, (b) taking initiative to coordinate with other jurisdictions on regional issues that impact our town's character and quality of life, and (c) consistent and resolute enforcement of the General Plan, specific plans, and the Town Code.





What makes Los Gatos Special?

The desire to protect the town's high quality of life is demonstrated by extensive citizen participation in many service groups and community issues. While residents may disagree over specific issues, they share a common vision of the future of Los Gatos. Residents are adamant in their desire to maintain a high quality of life and preserve the character of the town. The overall community consensus is that Los Gatos:

- Be a full-service community that is also environmentally sensitive
- Maintain a balanced, well-designed mix of residential, commercial, service, and open space uses, fostering a pedestrian-oriented community with a small town, village-like character
- Support an active business community that provides a wide variety of goods and services and a broad range of employment opportunities, minimizing the need to travel to other communities
- Provide a well-run, efficient municipal government that is fiscally healthy, with high levels of public safety, recreational, and arts and cultural amenities, and that is committed to high quality education



STATISTICS SECTION

Town of Los Gatos Statistics

TOWN DEMOGRAPHICS:

Current Town Area	15 Square Miles
Incorporated:	August 10, 1887
Elevation:	428 ft.
Miles of Streets:	112
Number of Traffic Signals	28
Number of Registered Voters	19,000 – 21,000
Form of Government:	Council Manager
Town Employee/Citizen Ratio	1:200

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

12 Neighborhood Parks
 Los Gatos Creek Trail
 161 Acres of Designated Open Space
 Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation District
 Adult Recreation Center
 Youth Recreation Center
 Los Gatos Library
 Forbes Mill History & Los Gatos Art Museums

HOSPITALS

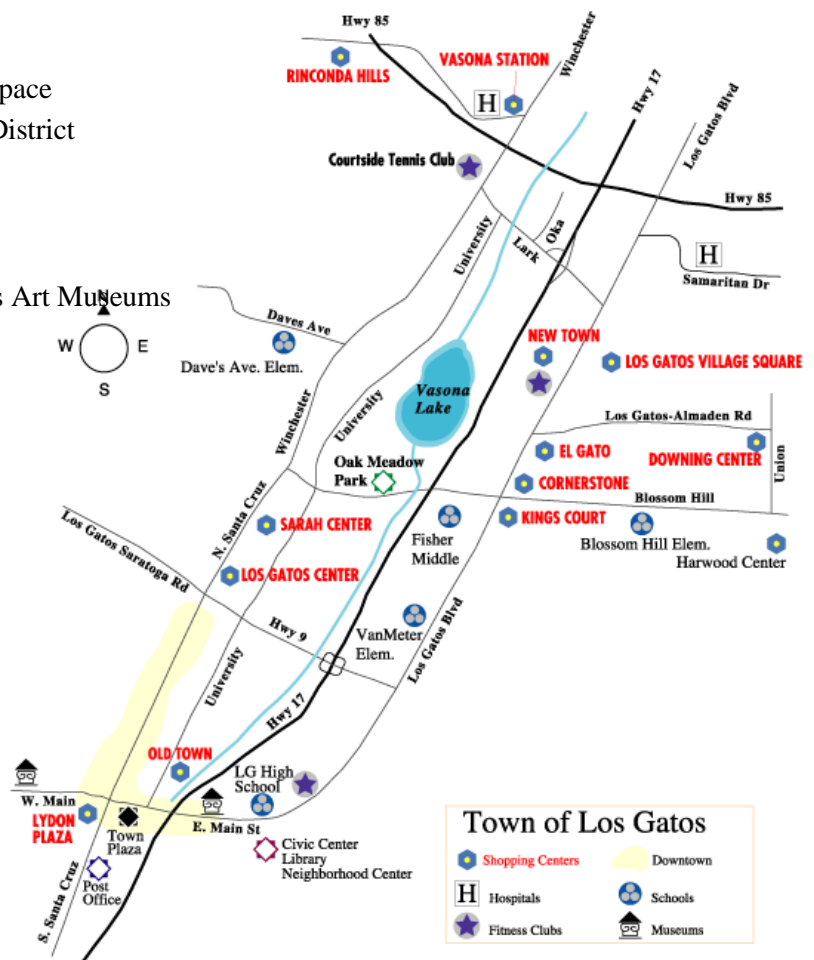
Good Samaritan Hospital
 El Camino Hospital

EDUCATION

4 Elementary Schools
 1 Junior High School
 1 High School
 1 Continuation Program
 1 Independent Study
 240 Teachers

POLICE SERVICES

1 Police Station
 1 Police Services Building
 38 Police Officers
 19 Support Personnel



WEATHER:

Average Temperatures (degrees Fahrenheit):

Winter 37/63

Spring 42/76

Summer 51/86

Fall 42/83

Average Sunny Days 330 per year

Average precipitation 22.87 inches

Annual snowfall 0.00 inches

POPULATION:

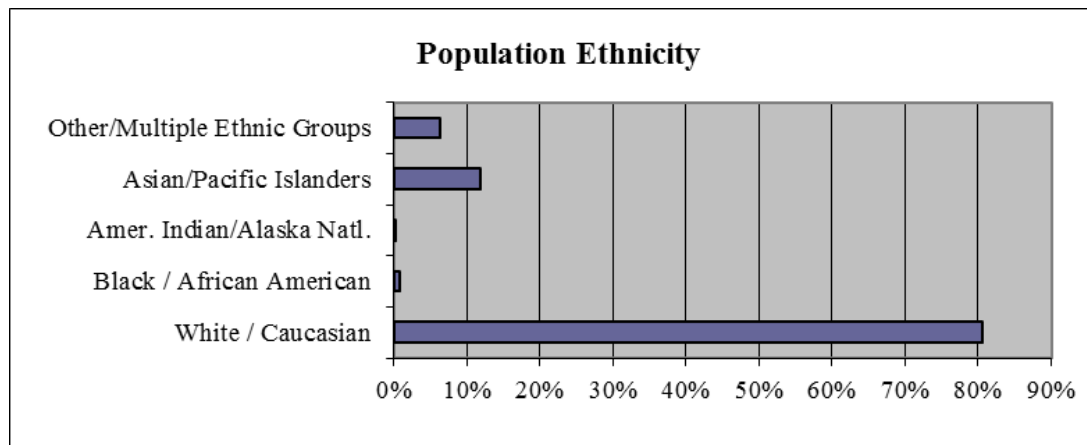
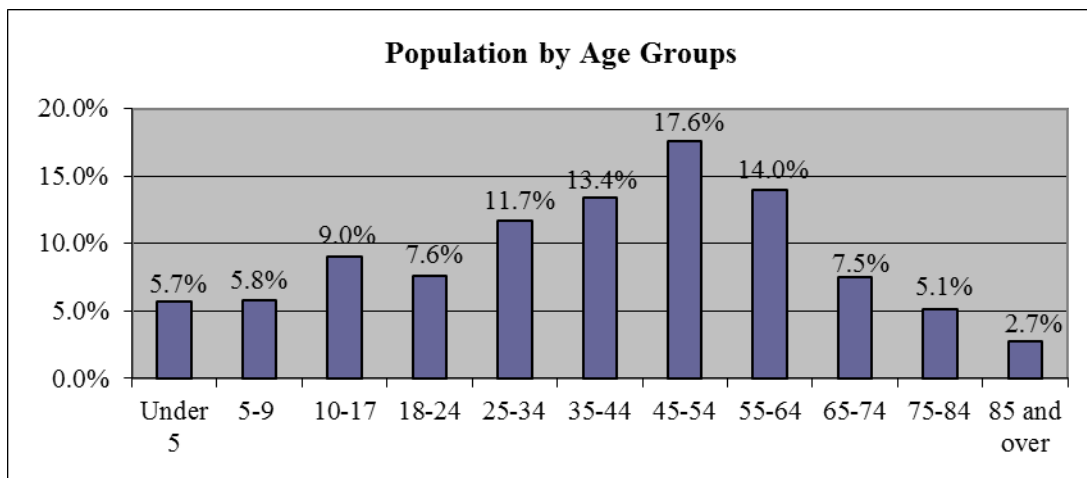
1990 Census: 28,013

2000 Census: 28,592

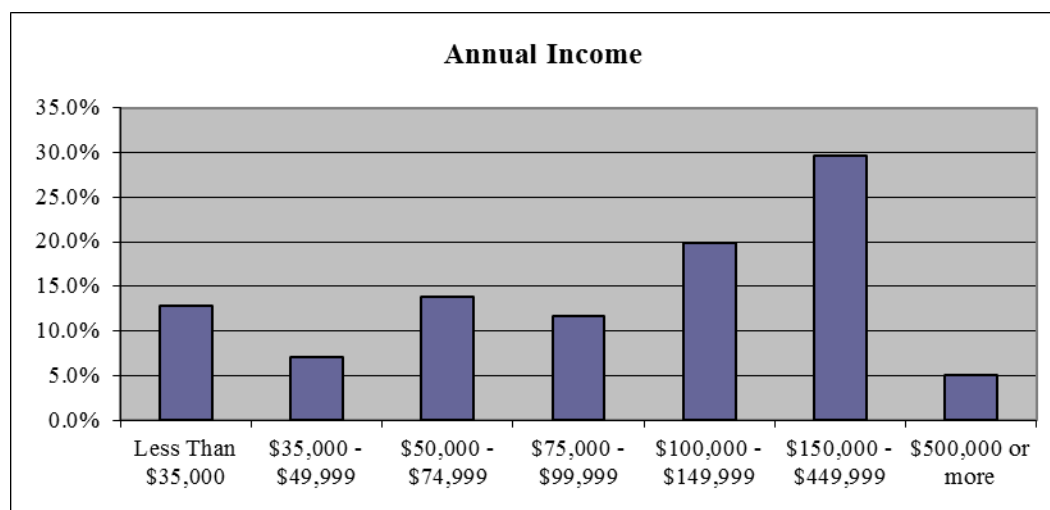
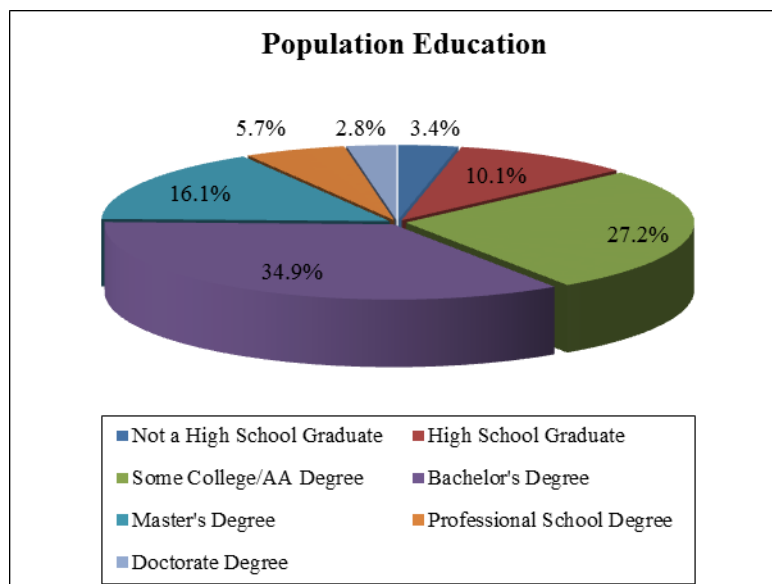
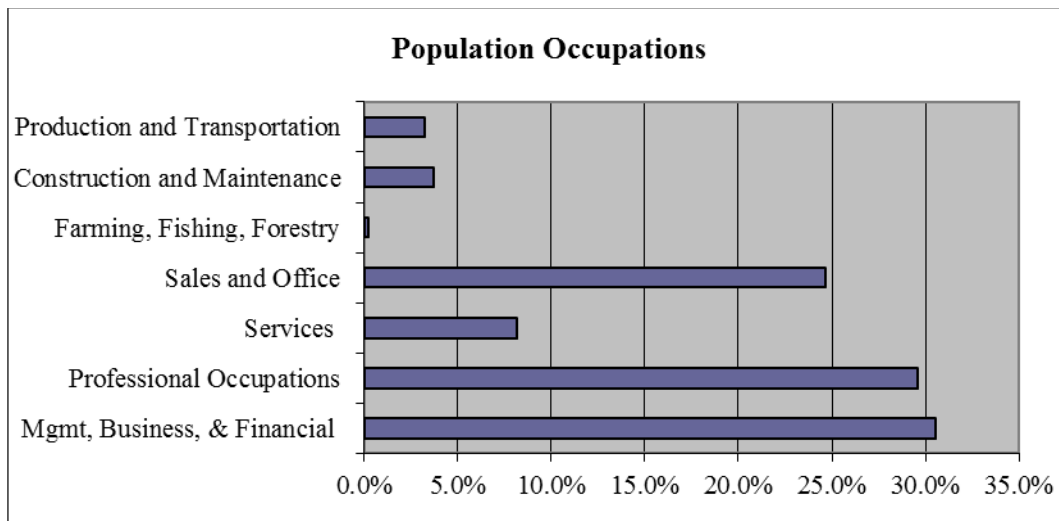
2010 Census: 29,413

2013 Estimates: 29,792

State Ranking in Population 241 of 482

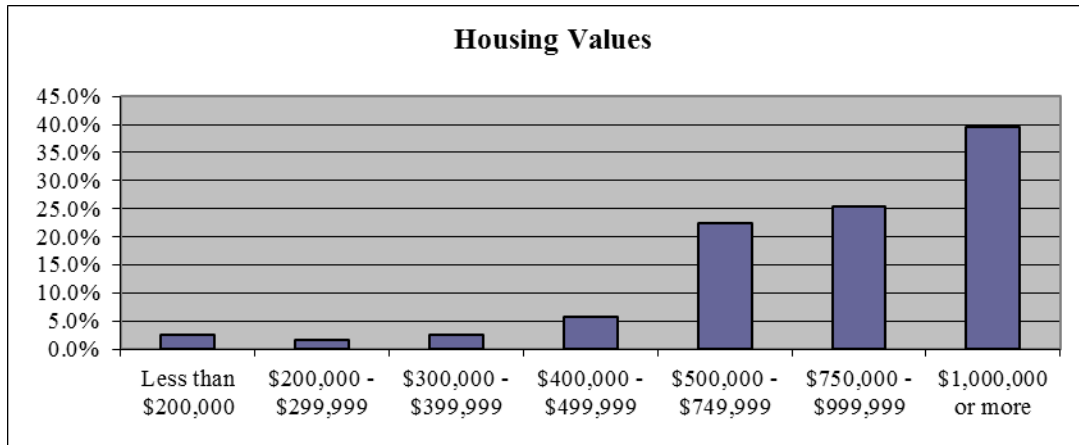


Note: Demographic figures obtained from State of California, Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce, and Claritas Inc



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Housing Units	Units	Percentage
Owner Occupied	8,466	65.1%
Renter Occupied	4,359	34.9%
Total Housing Units	12,825	100%



Note: Demographic figures obtained from State of California, Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce, and Claritas Inc.

Economic Factors

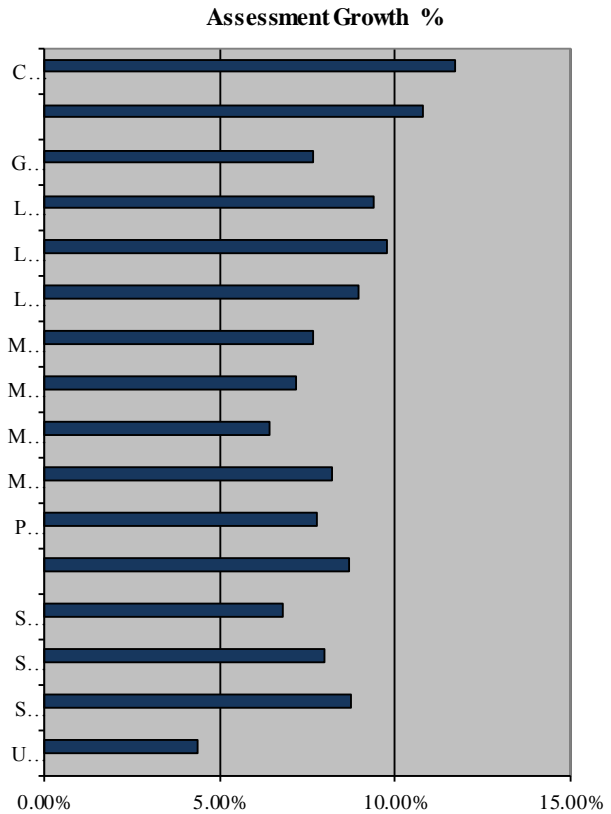
2012/13 Top Twenty Local Secured Taxpayers

Property Owner	Land Use	Assessed Value	% of Total
SI 32 LLC / Sobrato Interest IV	Apartments	\$ 157,559,245	1.86%
Knowles Los Gatos LLC	Industrial	\$ 47,045,934	0.56%
KSL Capital Partners	Athletic Club	\$ 42,532,721	0.50%
Boccardo Corporation / BR3 Partners	Office Building	\$ 37,550,368	0.44%
San Jose Water Works	Water Company	\$ 30,882,009	0.36%
SRI Old Town LLC	Shopping Center	\$ 30,374,286	0.36%
Alberto Way Holdings LLC	Office Building	\$ 23,145,064	0.27%
Grosvenor USA Ltd	Commercial	\$ 22,437,962	0.27%
CHL Ventures LP	Commercial	\$ 20,671,962	0.24%
Good Samaritan Hospital LP	Hospital	\$ 19,530,183	0.23%
CH Realty IV Downing LP	Shopping Center	\$ 19,525,927	0.23%
Heakth Care REIT Inc	Office Building	\$ 19,223,348	0.23%
LG Hotel LLC	Hotel	\$ 15,617,134	0.18%
D&K Los Gatos LLC	Office Building	\$ 15,590,010	0.18%
David A. and Shari Flick	Commercial	\$ 15,018,971	0.18%
Grade Way Associates VI	Commercial	\$ 14,798,651	0.17%
Lyon Baytree Apartments LLC	Apartments	\$ 14,430,123	0.17%
Paul H. Roskoph	Residential	\$ 13,416,452	0.16%
Green Eyes LLC	Residential	\$ 12,542,555	0.15%
750 University LLC	Office Building	\$ 12,137,999	0.14%
		<u>\$ 584,030,904</u>	<u>6.90%</u>

Source Data from California Municipal Statistics, Inc.

Economic Factors

Santa Clara County Assessment Roll Growth by City			
(Values in \$Billions*)			
Santa Clara County Cities	Total Roll 2013	Total Roll 2012	Percent Growth**
Campbell	\$ 7.24	\$ 6.48	11.73%
Cupertino	16.20	14.62	10.81%
Gilroy	6.17	5.73	7.68%
Los Altos	11.16	10.20	9.41%
Los Altos Hills	5.84	5.32	9.77%
Los Gatos	9.46	8.68	8.99%
Milpitas	12.81	11.90	7.65%
Monte Sereno	1.64	1.53	7.19%
Morgan Hill	6.60	6.20	6.45%
Mountain View	18.76	17.34	8.19%
Palo Alto	25.58	23.74	7.75%
San Jose	131.93	121.36	8.71%
Santa Clara	27.01	25.29	6.80%
Saratoga	11.51	10.66	7.97%
Sunnyvale	29.25	26.90	8.74%
Unincorporated	13.42	12.86	4.35%
TOTALS	\$ 334.58	\$ 308.81	0.88%



*Net of nonreimbursable exemptions

**Percentage based on non-rounded values

Source: Santa Clara County's Office of the County Assessor 2013-14 Annual Report

Major Employers as of June 30, 2013

Organization	Product/Services	Employees
Good Samaritan Hospital	Health Industry	2,000
Netflix	Internet Services	900
El Camino Hospital	Health Industry	700
Courtside Club	Leisure/Recreation	295
Los Gatos Union School District	Education	275
Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District	Education	270
Safeway	Food Industry	250
Alain Pinel Realtors	Real Estate	150
Town of Los Gatos	Town Government	150

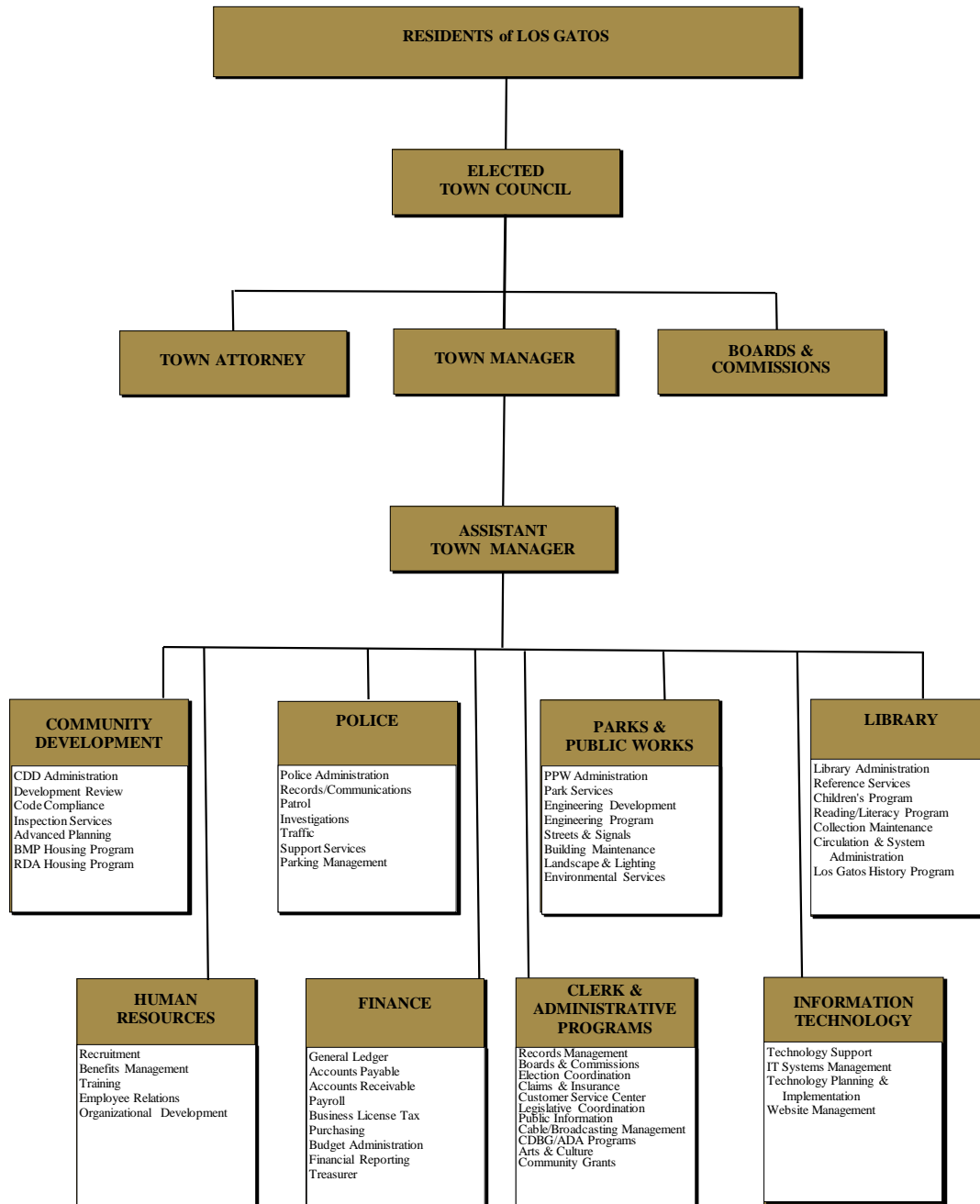
Town Management

Town Manager Greg Larson
Assistant Town Manager Pamela Jacobs
Chief of Police Scott Seaman
Community Development Director.....Sandy Baily
Finance and Administrative Services Director Stephen Conway
Human Resources Director Rumi Portillo
Interim Town LibrariansHenry Bankhead & Heidi Murphy
Parks and Public Works Director Todd Capurso
Town AttorneyJudith Propp



Town of Los Gatos

Organizational Structure



Town of Los Gatos

Commissions, Committees, and Advisory Boards

The Town of Los Gatos has a variety of volunteer commissions, committees, and boards, whose purpose is to act in an advisory capacity to the Los Gatos Town Council. Members of these commissions, committees, and boards are appointed by the Town Council. The following is a list of the Town's active commissions, committees, and boards:

Planning Commission

Makes recommendations regarding planning, zoning administration, and other land use regulatory controls.

Arts and Culture Commission

Encourages the development of art, drama, music, and other creative activities in Los Gatos.

Architectural Standards Committee

Reviews and makes recommendations to the Planning Commission concerning a variety of proposed changes to Town design standards for private development.

Board of Appeals

Hears appeals of Building Regulations.

Community and Senior Services Commission

Ensures the goals and objectives of the Human Services Element to the General Plan are implemented by regularly assessing the housing and human service needs of the community.

Conceptual Development Advisory Committee

Advises prospective applicants of whether a project is consistent with Town policy prior to initiating the development review process.

General Plan Committee

Provides assistance to the Planning Department and Town Council on all matters relating to the General Plan or any Specific Plan.

Historic Preservation Committee

Advises the Planning Commission concerning major matters pertaining to historic preservation. Determines and issues approval for minor exterior alterations to a historic structure.

Town of Los Gatos
Commissions, Committees, and Advisory Boards

Library Board

Represents the community in making recommendations regarding Library services.

Parks Commission

Provides advisory oversight for issues related to public parks, off-street trails, open space, grounds, street trees, and town beautification.

Personnel Board

Hears appeals submitted by any person in the classified services, relative to any disciplinary action or alleged violation of Town ordinance, and certifies its findings and recommendations.

Transportation and Parking Commission

Advises the Town Council on matters pertaining to transportation town-wide and parking in the Central Business District.

Youth Commission

Provides young people a voice in the Los Gatos community, and functions as an advisory board to the Town Council on youth-related issues.

